



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attorney General McGraw Sues Monsanto Over Soybeans; St. Louis Company's Advertising For New Plant In Question

CHARLESTON – West Virginia Attorney General Darrell McGraw filed a civil enforcement action today naming the Monsanto Company for refusing to cooperate with his office's investigation of the sale of soybeans that tolerate the application of Roundup weed killer.

Roundup, generically known as glyphosate, is a weed killer patented by Monsanto, which is headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. Glyphosate-tolerant soybeans may make up as much as 90% of all soybeans grown in the United States.

Monsanto owns the patents on genetically modified, glyphosate-tolerant soybeans. The company is now selling a second generation soybean known as Roundup Ready 2 Yield. Patents on the first generation seeds will expire in 2014. To promote its second generation of genetically modified soybeans, Monsanto advertised that the Roundup Ready 2 Yield plants have an increased yield of 7-11% over similar varieties of the first-generation plants.

"I want to ensure there is a fair marketplace for West Virginia farmers," Attorney General McGraw said. "They need to know if it is worth extra money to buy new products that may not live up to the hype."

Attorney General McGraw started an investigation of Monsanto and its advertising when several published tests showed the results claimed by Monsanto may not support its advertising for Roundup Ready 2 Yield, which are priced significantly higher than the first-generation seeds.

The Attorney General's suit asks the court to order to enjoin Monsanto from selling any of its products in West Virginia until such time as it fully complies with the subpoena. Farmers located in the Eastern Panhandle and along the Ohio River in West Virginia grow soybeans commercially.

West Virginia consumers can find answers to questions about their rights, file complaints, or alert the Attorney General's Office to unfair or deceptive business practices by calling the Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-368-8808 or visiting www.wvago.gov. For regular consumer news updates, follow the AGO on Facebook and Twitter.

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